



Gardenia M. Henley/Diplomat/Ret.

“The Tough Issues Must Always Be
Addressed And Dealt With Effectively”

THE HENLEY **REPORT V**

VOTER BALLOT FRAUD **REVISITED**

REPORT OF FORSYTH COUNTY **BOARD OF ELECTION DIRECTOR**

THE HENLEY REPORT V

DECEMBER 31, 2013

MEMORANDUM

FOR: *Ms. Kim W. Strach, Executive Director/NCSBOE, Et al.*

FROM: *Gardenia M. Henley, Diplomat/FSO/Ret.*

SUBJECT: *REPORT ON FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION DIRECTOR*

I am respectfully presenting to you, *The Henley Report V* for your immediate attention.

The content of this report contains numerous instances where the Forsyth County Board of Election (FCBOE), Director Robert Coffman has breached his agreement with the North Carolina State Board of Election (NCSBOE) and has violated the State of North Carolina guidance and regulations. Mr. Coffman's irresponsible behavior has also created a financial burden for the city and citizens of Winston Salem and Forsyth County. Mr. Coffman's lack of good management and callous behavior has also created a problem for the Winston Salem State University (WSSU) Post Office. Responsible officials at WSSU have expressed previously that at times they were instructed and followed the FCBOE's guidance relating to voter data cards, which in my opinion at times, WSSU postal employees were ill advised and the United States Postal Service(USPS).

Please note that the petition filed by the Current FCBOE Director during calendar year December 2013, only detailed a few specific problems with Mr. Coffman's management style and irresponsible behavior. The Henley Report I, dated February 5, 2011 also identified problems which were not adequately and aggressively addressed by the prior board in place during that year. Thus, the citizens of Forsyth County are again faced with a potential financial burden. The Henley Report I, and this "Henley Report V," along with the supporting evidence, and the petition filed by the current board is more than enough support to justify terminating Mr. Coffman's employment. The citizens of Forsyth County do not want to continue to repair this problem, they want to replace the problem, as it is cost effective. As previously stated, Mr. Coffman has created a financial burden for tax payers because of the:

- law suits relating to him firing employees who report his illegal acts,
- the training he received because he refuses to respect public officials, his staff and act professionally at work,
- the time spent by the FCBOE, NCSBOE, elected and appointed government officials defending their positions for or against Mr. Coffman, and the list continues.

I have investigated certain elements and instances relating to Mr. Coffman in his capacity as the Director of the FCBOE and found that his employment not only should be terminated, but his actions should be reported to Federal officials as he has violated Federal election laws, and the FCBOE staff who assisted him with certain FCBOE actions should also be investigated using Federal standards of investigations. ***ALSO, I HAVE ELEVATED RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 5, PREVIOUSLY ADDRESSED IN THE HENLEY REPORT I, DATED FEBRUARY 5, 2011, TO THE USPS, VIA THE HENLEY REPORT VII, ENTITLED, REPORT OF FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS'S CONFLICT WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, DATED DECEMBER 30, 2013.***

www.thepeoplescandidate.org

Gardenia M. Henley
P.O. Box 11183
Winston-Salem, NC 27116
336-744-1578

THE HENLEY REPORT V

Background

The Forsyth County Board of Election (FCBOE) is a three person board which is appointed every two years by the North Carolina State Board of Elections, (*NCSBOE*). Members of the North Carolina State Board of Elections are appointed by the Governor. Principal functions of the FCBOE include establishing election precincts and voting sites, appointing and training precinct officials, preparing and distributing ballots and voting equipment, canvassing and certifying the ballots cast in elections, and investigating any voting irregularities. It maintains voter registration and participation records and provides public information on voters and elections. Federal laws require that state and local efforts are funded through the Help American Vote Act (HAVA) to ensure that all people, including those with disabilities have access to the election process. Another direct function of the FCBOE is to assure that registered tax payers within Forsyth County, North Carolina, receive applicable voter mailings through the use of the Federal, State and local U.S. Postal Service (USPS).

The Henley Report I, was issued on **February 5, 2011**, which identified numerous instances of FCBOE irregularities some of which were never dealt with during my 2011 investigation and subsequently these old issues previously reported in my report such as inappropriate delivery of voter data cards and Mr. Coffman's unprofessional behavior are now being identified as new problems by various individuals, when in fact, the current issues identified are old long standing problems, that must now, without question, be dealt with effectively.

Report of Forsyth County Board of Elections Director, Mr. Robert Coffman

The Henley Report I, and the additional evidence identified in this, the **Henley Report V** is more than enough proof, evidence and/or support (call it what you want) that changes are needed in the FCBOE. Anyone who believes or who will say that a suspension of any government official who abuses the public and its employees are obviously a large part of the problem. Furthermore, anyone who consistently exhibits abusive and irresponsible behavior while being paid our tax dollars, should not be an employee paid with county tax dollars, and should not be a Director of the FCBOE. Furthermore, any elected, or appointed official or citizen including any attorney, who supports a corrupt system and puts forth and asserts their opinions to defend anyone with a Performance Appraisal that reads and looks like Mr. Coffman's should and will be investigated alongside Mr. Coffman as well. These individuals must have benefited, or plan to benefit, from the miscounting of Electoral Votes and/or Mr. Coffman's willful misrepresentations.

I identified different and similar instances of the same problems with Mr. Coffman's behavior in the **Henley Report I**, to the same defenders who are fighting for Mr. Coffman to be suspended but not terminated. The same elected and appointed officials, and their friends also fought that Mr. Coffman's actions be ignored during calendar year 2011. They also have a pattern of behavior supporting corrupt officials because they benefit from it financially. It is not ok to call some one's mother, father or sibling(s) a crack whore. Let us not forget that it was alleged and by Mr. Coffman's own admissions he has called employees and public officials other unfounded and colorful names.

THE HENLEY REPORT V

Also during **2010 and 2011**, employees stated that Mr. Coffman “did not follow Federal and State of North Carolina’s guidance relating to election laws,” the result ended in those employees either being fired or forced to terminate their employment for various unfounded and trumped up reasons. I have also personally found that some aspects of Mr. Coffman’s behavior are federal offenses, his verbal abuse of employees and the public has been consistent throughout the years. He has openly made negative politically biased comments publically and has relentlessly harassed employees and some members of the public. I have also been subjected to his ill behavior as well during one-on-one meetings and also during public FCBOE meetings while current board members were present. ***In this regard, he has violated N.C.G.S. 163.39.*** I am a political activist who has been a candidate for office several times. I do not have confidence that Mr. Coffman and the FCBOE officials under the auspicious of Mr. Coffman did not miscount my votes. Less than 20 votes were miscounted for the city council race for the city of Tobacoville, N.C., the cause being declared by Mr. Coffman as “human error.” Surely hundreds or thousands of votes will definitely challenge someone who “will not” accurately count 20 votes. Note that I believe that Mr. Coffman and his staff can count very well, counting ballots is not necessarily the problem. However, the prudent use of our tax dollars and restoring the public’s opinion is a large problem that must be addressed with a change at the Director’s level. We must investigate anyone including employees who may be aiding and abetting Mr. Coffman’s behavior. The tough issues must be addressed and dealt with effectively. I have investigated and have evidence that on:

September 6, 2013, Mr. Coffman openly bragged about the ill fate of employees who were terminated as a result of complaining about his behavior. I am also presenting evidence that during a meeting with Mr. Coffman on **September 6, 2013**, he stated that no one could fire him but the NCSBOE Executive Director. ***He also said that, “the executive Director and Mr. Gary Barlett like me, they love me there”.*** He continued to speak about being fired stating that, ***“they tried in the past and it’s never worked, ha ha ha (laughing) at least not yet,”*** he openly bragged and laughed about being irreplaceable. Please note that, I never mentioned the subject of Mr. Coffman’s employment during my meeting with him, in fact, he introduced the subject relating to him being fired.

On October 30, 2013, I discovered that Mr. Coffman had misrepresented the facts relating to my request for public information. Mr. Albright the FCBOE’s Attorney told me on this date that Mr. Coffman did not physically give him my request for information. Mr. Coffman told me he had already given my request to the attorney on a different day. Thus again, I realized that Mr. Coffman had not been truthful. In fact, I witnessed Mr. Coffman handing my information request to Mr. Albright on this day, in turn, Mr. Coffman had some colorful words for me on this day, saying in part “we just can’t get rid of you!!”

On November 1, 2013, I presented an emailed document to the **FCBOE chairman Mr. Raymond** and to Mr. Russell outlining my concerns relating to the Henley Report and prior concerns, the basis for my email was the board’s lack of response to Mr. Coffman’s ill behavior.

On November 15, 2013, during the 2013 primary and general election, ***Mr. Coffman violated NCGS163.33.2***, relating to the FCBOE voting machines, the information given to me relating to this section of the *N.C.G.S.* was not accurate or complete. The documentation also ***did not meet N.C.G.S. 163.33.2 requirements.***

THE HENLEY REPORT V

Conclusion

During Calendar year 2010, I investigated the Winston-Salem State University, (WSSU) Post Office. I found that Mr. Coffman did not inform the staff of the impact of the long standing problems with the voter data cards. To date, the FCBOE did not request the USPS to conduct an official investigation of this incident, as I recommended in the **Henley Report I, dated February 5, 2011**. I also found that although Mr. Coffman stated during a 2011 FCBOE meeting that he had taken care of this voter mailing problem, however, he in fact had not dealt with this issue effectively at all. I had found and had recommended corrective action for this problem during my 2011 Henley Report I. Furthermore, when I met with the WSSU Post Office, I found that they were never informed of the ramifications of this long standing problem. Further evidence is the current issue cited in the FCBOE's petition to fire Mr. Coffman, where the voter data mailings is still a very serious problem in which Mr. Coffman still has not dealt with. During 2011, he assured the former board members and the public that he had taken care of this problem.

On September 5, 2013, I had the detailed results of my 2010 interview with the WSSU post office forwarded to Mr. Raymond the Chairman of the FCBOE, as I learned that voter mailings was still a very critical problem that was not dealt with by Mr. Coffman. **Voter mailing cards were still being held by WSSU as recent as October of calendar year 2013**. Most voter data cards recently found were dated back as far as 2009 and dated back to when I conducted my interview with WSSU during 2010. Obviously, the same cards that I referenced in the **Henley Report I dated February 5, 2011**, was again referenced in the current FCBOE boards petition to fire Mr. Coffman.

On November 5, 2013, at a FCBOE meeting, I informed the board that Mr. Coffman had misrepresented the facts relating to my public documents request. I explained what took place at my meeting with Mr. Coffman and he did not dispute the facts that I presented. At that meeting, Mr. Russell was concerned about my assertions, and again it should be noted that Mr. Coffman took no exceptions to my comments. Based on the boards petition to fire Mr. Coffman, it should be apparent and clear that misrepresenting information is not a problem for Mr. Coffman, as I asserted during that meeting. **As previously stated, prior to issuing this Henley Report V, I also issued the Henley Report I, dated February 5, 2011 which discussed FCBOE Election Crimes and Offences. That report contained five recommendations. The recommendations were not adequately addressed and thus, the tax payers of Forsyth County in Winston-Salem are still faced with a corrupt Director of the board of election who has established a corrupt empire.**

Finally, I am asking the NCSBOE officials to seriously review the information that I have presented and effectively deal with this long standing problem. The Henley Report VII, dated DECEMBER 30, 2013 and all other HENLEY REPORTS can be found on my Website: thepeoplescandidate.org. The taxpayers of Forsyth County want to know that the NCSBOE officials in Raleigh will not tolerate unethical and illegal conduct. Additional information supporting specific comments in this report will be forwarded in a separate attachment and submitted upon request. Thank you for your attention. I can be reached at (336) 744-1578.

**I Remain,
Gardenia M. Henley
Diplomat/FSO/Ret.**

www.thepeoplescandidate.org

Gardenia M. Henley
P.O. Box 11183
Winston-Salem, NC 27116
336-744-1578